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These tables, based chiefly upon the Carlisle Table of Mortality, appear to have been prepared with anxious care by the compilers, who represent themselves as having taken every precaution to prevent errors, whether in computation or in the printing. The profession will undoubtedly find this volume of great service in the solution of the complicated "present value problems," which so frequently arise in the domain of real property law, and also in the determination of troublesome questions relating to the true measure of damage for the premature termination of life by negligence or wrongful act. The volume contains Life and Annuity Tables, with rules for their use in respect of vested and contingent dower and curtesy rights and damages for injury, a death from another's wrongful act, negligence, etc.; the Bowditch Table, table of expectancy of life as shown by the Carlisle, the Combined Experience, the American Experience, the Thirty Officers' Experience, the Farr No. 3, and the Northampton Tables of Mortality, etc., etc. There is also a table and rule for ascertaining the present value of any sum at 2, 2½, 3, 3½, 4, 4½, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9 and 10 per cent. for any number of years from one to eighty, inclusive. This latter table is especially valuable. It is computed upon a compound interest basis and the formula used is  $\frac{1-(1+i)^{-n}}{i} = \frac{1-v^n}{i}$ .

In view of the number of decisions in favor of the admissibility of such tables as evidence in suits involving the questions to which they relate, the importance of having this volume at hand cannot readily be over estimated. The tables are printed in type that is admirably clear and the arrangement of the figures is in all respects satisfactory. G. W. P.

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A LEGAL DOCUMENT OF BABYLONIA. By MORRIS JASTROW, Jr., Ph.D. From the "Oriental Studies" of the Oriental Club of Philadelphia. 1894.

In this little pamphlet Dr. JASTROW discusses a Legal Document of Babylonia, dealing with the rescission of an invalid contract of sale. The "Document" in question is

a little clay tablet owned by Mayer Sulzberger, Esq., of the Philadelphia Bar, and is said by Dr. JASTROW to be in an excellent state of preservation. Dr. JASTROW classifies the legal documents of Babylonia under four heads, which (if we may reduce them to the terms of modern legal parlance) correspond to (1) due bills and receipt; (2) bills of sale; (3) deeds, settlements and formal executory contracts; and (4) judicial records. He comments upon the value of these documents as containing important incidental evidence of manners and customs in ancient Babylonia; and he then translates the document in question and finds that it belongs to the fourth class. The date is fixed at 642 B. C. One Aplâ affected to sell to Nurea real property over which he possessed no power of alienation. Nurea paid the consideration and (it is assumed) entered into possession. A paternal uncle of the vendor's then asserted a title to the property and, upon restoration of the consideration to Nurea, the latter surrendered the deed to the claimant. All the parties being before the court complete justice seems to have been done by combining many of the features of ejectment, the action for money had, and received, and the common law fine. Dr. JASTROW's scholarly and suggestive comments upon the document in question and upon Babylonian documents in general will be read with great interest by those into whose hands this pamphlet comes.

G. W. P.

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GREAT DISSENTING OPINIONS OF THE SUPREME COURT OF THE UNITED STATES. A Paper Read at the 17th Annual Meeting of the American Bar Association (1894). By HAMP-  
TON L. CARSON, of the Philadelphia Bar. Reprinted from the Transactions of the Association.

For his address to the Bar Association Mr. CARSON selected a subject as fortunate as it is unusual. Dissenting opinions are too generally looked upon as feeble remonstrances of stubborn members of the court against the decision of the majority, or as something, at all events, which is not the law,